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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/579,530	05/16/2006	Quirin Sterner	PNL21552	8414
77407	7590	06/09/2008	EXAMINER	
Novak Druce & Quigg LLP			MCCALL, ERIC SCOTT	
1300 I Street NW				
Suite 1000 West Tower			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Washington, DC 20005			2855	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/09/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/579,530	STERNER, QUIRIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric S. McCall	2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5, and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 May 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

METHOD FOR DETERMINING ADDITIONAL FUEL CONSUMPTION IN A MOTOR VEHICLE AND METHOD FOR DISPLAYING ADDITIONAL FUEL CONSUMPTION

FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This action is in response to the Applicant's amendment received on March 12, 2008.

DECLARATION

In view of the Applicant's newly submitted declaration, the objection thereto as set forth in the previous office action (Dec. 12, 2007) has been overcome.

SPECIFICATION

In view of the Applicant's amended specification, the objection to the specification as set forth in said previous office action has been overcome.

CLAIMS

The Examiner points out that claims 2-7 have been amended by the Applicant even though the actual amended subject matter of the claims has not been indicated.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3, 5, and 7 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention for the following reasons:

Claim 3, the terms “it” (line 2) and “its” (line 4) are indefinite.

Claim 5, the phrase “the characteristic fields” lacks antecedent basis and is thus indefinite as to what is being referred to.

Claim 7, the phrase “the generator model” lacks antecedent basis and is thus indefinite.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicant's admitted prior art of Barske (5,336,932).

With respect to claim 1, Barske suggests a method for determining the fuel consumption of an electrical consumer in a motor vehicle with an internal combustion engine, supplied by a generator which is driven by the internal combustion engine, comprising determining at least one current value of the generator mechanical power input upon energization of the electrical consumer (col. 5, lines 1-21 and col. 6, lines 37-44).

With respect to claims 2 and 3, Barske sets forth that the monitoring of power discharging from the battery, and thus inputting into the generator, is continuous and as such “at different times” and when an “electrical consumer is connected” as claimed.

With respect to claim 5, Barske suggests determining electrical power input by means of characteristic field values as claimed (Fig. 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 6, and 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome any rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed subject matter of each claim.

Response To Arguments

The Applicant's arguments have been considered but have not been found to be persuasive.

Barske sets forth that the connection of the generator has resulted in an increase in the fuel consumption because of the power demand increase. Thus, as the demand on the generator increases, by any electrical consumer that the generator supplies power to, the amount of fuel consumption increases. In addition, the generator of Barske itself can be deemed as the electrical consumer as claimed because nothing in the claim distinguishes the electrical consumer from the generator.

CONCLUSION

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. The Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Eric S. McCall whose telephone number is (571) 272-2183.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Eric S. McCall/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2855